Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-15 and 18-20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 4, 14, and 18 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 were previously cancelled.

In the fourth paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-3, 8-15, and 18-20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Karagoz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,513,425) (hereinafter "Karagoz") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found in Figs. 1-4 of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 14, and 18 call for, *inter alia*:

a substantially solid pin body of carbon material having a central axis, first and second end portions.

The Karagoz reference discloses a composite water-cooled electrode for electric arc furnaces. Karagoz discloses a hollow metal nipple at one end of the electrode.

The reference does not show a substantially solid pin body of carbon material having a central axis, first and second end portions, as recited in claims 1, 14, and 18 of the instant application. The Karagoz reference discloses a hollow metal nipple. Karagoz does not disclose that the nipple is substantially solid. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which a substantially solid pin body of carbon material has a central axis, first and second end portions.

In the penultimate paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-7 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Watson, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,550,270) (hereinafter "Watson") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*:

the pin body having an integral protrusion formed thereon for forming an abutment surface extending radially beyond the external thread and facing towards one of the end portions.

The Watson reference discloses a process of making a nipple-electrode assembly and joint. A ring (1) is threaded onto the outside of a nipple (4). The nipple (4) with the ring (1) is inserted into a socket (6) of an electrode (7). A foamable material (9) locks the nipple (4) in the socket (6) of the electrode (7). The ring (1) is then unthreaded from the nipple (4) to make another assembly, leaving the nipple (4) in the locked position in the electrode socket, as illustrated in Fig. 4 (column 4, lines 61-64).

The reference does not show the pin body having an integral protrusion formed thereon for forming an abutment surface extending radially beyond the external thread and facing towards one of the end portions, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Watson discloses a ring that is used in the manufacture of a nipple-electrode assembly. Watson discloses that the ring is removed after the nipple-electrode assembly is completed. Watson does not disclose that the ring is an integrally formed protrusion, which forms an abutment surface. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the pin body has an integral

protrusion formed thereon for forming an abutment surface which extends radially beyond the external thread and faces towards one of the end portions.

In the last paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-4 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Hopkins (U.S. Patent No. 2,039,167) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Hopkins reference discloses a welding electrode. The electrode includes a joint forming element (21), which includes threaded studs (20) and a disc (22). The joint forming element (21) is formed of any metal or alloy such as silver, gold, aluminum, brass, bronze, and the like (page 2, lines 26-28).

The reference does not show a substantially solid pin body of carbon material having a central axis, first and second end portions, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The Hopkins reference discloses a joint forming element that is made of metal. Hopkins does not disclose that the joint is made of carbon material. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which a substantially solid pin body of carbon material has a central axis, first and second end portions.

In the first full paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, 18, and 20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Paus (U.S. Patent No. 3,540,764) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Paus reference discloses an electrode joint having a lower electrode section (10) and an upper electrode section (14), which are connected by a nipple (12). A first expanded graphite material (16) is positioned adjacent to and around the nipple (12). As can be seen in Fig. 3 of Paus, the graphite material does not contact the nipple (12) and a portion of the lower electrode section (10) is provided between the graphite material (16) and the nipple (12).

Claims 1, 14, and 18 call for, *inter alia*:

the abutment surface of the pin being defined on a protrusion formed on the end portion.

The reference does not show the abutment surface of the pin being defined on a protrusion formed on the end portion, as recited in claims 1, 14, and 18 of the instant application. The Paus reference discloses an expanded material that does not contact the nipple. Paus does not disclose that the nipple includes an abutment surface. This is contrary to the

invention of the instant application as claimed, in which a the abutment surface of the pin is defined on a protrusion formed on the end portion of the pin.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 14, and 18. Claims 1, 14, and 18 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1, , they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 and 18-20 are solicited.

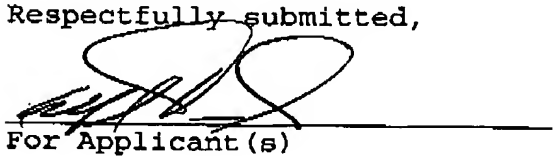
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of $120 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Applic. No. 10/803,853
Amdt. dated January 20, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 20, 2005

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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January 20, 2006

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